

## Emeritus Professor **Erik Olssen** ONZM FNZAH FRSNZ



**Year Elected: 1998**

### **Biography**

Emeritus Professor Erik Olssen, ONZM, PhD (Duke), FRSNZ, is an Historian who has specialised in modern history, particularly social structure, social change and social movements in the United States and New Zealand. His major books include John A. Lee (University of Otago Press, 1977), A History of Otago (John McIndoe Ltd., 1984), The Red Feds: Revolutionary Industrial Unionism and the New Zealand Federation of Labour (Oxford University Press, 1988), Building the New World: work, society and politics in Caversham, 1880s-1920s (Auckland University Press, 1995), and co-authored with Maureen Hickey Class and Occupation: The New Zealand Reality (University of Otago Press, 2005). Just last year he also contributed to and co-edited with Professor Miles Fairburn, FRSNZ, Class, Gender and the Vote: Historical Perspectives from New Zealand (University of Otago Press, 2005). Although he has been working intermittently on his history of New Zealand, his major research since 1995 has been on the so-called Caversham Project ([www.caversham.otago.ac.nz](http://www.caversham.otago.ac.nz)). This exercise in historical sociology was funded by FRST to identify the structures and processes of occupational mobility, geographical movement, and residential differentiation in the industrial suburb of Caversham, Dunedin, from the 1880s until the 1920s. Because of missing data about women's occupations and men's family responsibilities a new team was formed in 1998 to study the gendering of society across the three boroughs that comprise southern Dunedin and an extended time period, 1893-1938. These two projects have produced some 14 articles in international refereed journals, Sites of Gender: Women, Men and Modernity in Southern Dunedin, 1890-1939 (edited by Barbara Brookes, Annabel Cooper and Robin Law, Auckland University Press, 2003), and Erik Olssen and Maureen Hickey, Class and Occupation (2005). A volume of essays on occupational mobility and the project's overall conclusions, collaboratively written by me and Emeritus Professor Clyde Griffen, Vassar, with statistical analyses by Emeritus Professor F. L. Jones, ANU, is expected to appear in 2007.

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